

Application No. 10/750,467
Amendment dated 07/31/2005 responding to Office Action dated 06/10/2005

REMARKS

These remarks address the Examiner's comments made in the Office Action mailed 06/10/2005.

Applicant does not understand the office action, in which six species were identified by reference to combinations of drawings such as "Satisfy Figs. 4A-4F and Figs. 15 and 16" but without any further explanation as to what the features are in which the Examiner finds differentiation of species.

Each thus identified species is identified by reference either to (a) Figs. 15 and 16, or (b) Figs. 17 and 18. Those four figures relate ONLY to two embodiments of mounting systems which enable a donut-shaped inflatable bladder to seal a mid-trunk vent (rather than a much more common end-of-duct vent).

However, the invention is not limited to mid-trunk vent blocking bladders, nor to donut-shaped bladders. For example, Figs. 4-13 and 19-20 pertain to vent blocking bladders which are not donut-shaped and which are not used for blocking mid-trunk vents.

Only claims 10 ("...donut shape"), 11 ("...vent is located directly on a trunk..."), 16 ("...donut shape"), 17 ("...roof..."), and 18 ("...roof...") are specific to the Figs. 15-18 embodiments. Claims 1-9, 12-15, and 19-21 are generic to those Figs. and to the other Figs. in the disclosure.

Applicant respectfully submits that the election requirement and its underlying enumeration of species are defective. Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement and requests that it be withdrawn.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the stated requirement that "a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected", Applicant elects Species III, which appears to be the combination of a donut bladder and a pin coupler. Only claim 16 appears to read on that species.

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Applicant submits that the following matrix may assist the Examiner in determining the speciation of the claims.

	Unspecified Shape Bladder	Fig. 15-16 Donut Bladder	Figs. 17-18 Donut Bladder
Clamp Coupler	1, 7, 8, 9	10, 11	10
Clamp & Pin Coupler	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14		
Pin Coupler	12, 13, 15, 19	16	16, 17, 18
Block Coupler	20, 21		

Please note that the vast majority of the claims do not read on ANY of the species enumerated in the office action, due to the fact that each enumerated species appears to be limited to a donut-shaped bladder. In fact, none of the independent claims (1, 12, 20) reads on a single one of those species.

Alternatively, Applicant may simply have failed to understand what was meant by e.g. "Satisfy Figs. 4A-4F and Figs. 17 and 18". If this is the case, Applicant welcomes any further light which the Examiner can shed on the matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Calderwood, Attorney for the Applicant
Reg. No. 35,468
phone (503) 313-4004

Date:

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